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TEXAS MIGRANT LABOR, THE 1964 MIGRATION.
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THE MAJORITY OF TEXAS MIGRANTS LIVE IN SOUTH TEXAS AND APPROXIMATELY 95 PERCENT OF THEM ARE OF MEXICAN EXTRACTION. MOST OF THE OTHER FIVE PERCENT ARE EAST TEXAS NEGROES. THE MECHANIZATION OF COTTON HARVESTING AND THE EXPIRATION OF THE "BRACERO PROGRAM" IN 1964 HAVE CAUSED MORE TEXAS MIGRANTS TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE OF THE STATE. DURING 1964, ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE 129,000 TEXAS MIGRANTS SOUGHT EMPLOYMENT IN 36 STATES IN THE NATION. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 25,000 SCHOOL AGE YOUNGSTERS FROM TEXAS MIGRATED WITH THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE 1963-64 SCHOOL YEAR. IN THE FALL OF 1963 THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY INSTITUTED SPECIAL SIX MONTH MIGRANT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN FIVE SOUTH TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS. TABLES ARE INCLUDED WHICH SHOW--(1) A BREAKDOWN OF MEMBERS OF MIGRANT FAMILIES BY AGE AND SEX, (2) A TABULATION OF INTERSTATE AND INTRASTATE MIGRANTS IN 1963 AND 1964, (3) THE PERCENT OF COTTON HARVEST MECHANIZATION BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, (4) THE NUMBER OF TEXAS MIGRANTS WORKING IN VARIOUS STATES, AND (5) THE NUMBERS OF MIGRANT WORKERS ROUTED INTO LOCAL AREAS OF TEXAS IN PEAK MONTHS. ALSO INCLUDED ARE THE PROPOSED MIGRANT BILLS TO THE 58TH AND 59TH TEXAS LEGISLATURES AND A GLOSSARY OF TERMS. (ES)

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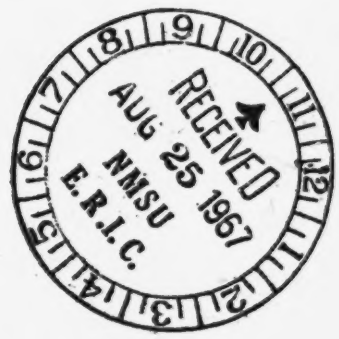

TEXAS MIGRANT LABOR

The 1964 Migration

Texas Council on Migrant Labor

RC 001589

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CONTENTS

1. Texas Migrant Labor During 1964--An Overview
2. Texas Migrant Workers-1964, Summary of Data
3. Trends in Total Migration
4. Mechanization and the Texas Migrant
5. States in Which Texas Migrants Worked
6. Principal Counties of Residence of Migrants
7. Number of Migrant Workers Routed into Local Areas in Peak Month
8. Migrant Labor Legislation Introduced in the 58th and 59th Legislatures
9. Glossary of Terms

TEXAS MIGRANT LABOR DURING 1964

AN OVERVIEW

GENERAL ASPECTS:

The year 1964 was a year of transition in the farm labor field, in Texas as well as in the other Southwestern states, as a result of the substantial reduction in the number of Mexican "braceros" made available to producers, followed by complete termination of Public Law 78, the "Bracero Act", on December 31, 1964. Only some 182,000 braceros entered the United States during 1964, compared with about 450,000 that worked in this country in 1959 and 1960. Increasingly stringent restrictions governing the authorization of imported labor over the last three years, imposed by the U.S. Department of Labor to make available more employment to domestic farm workers, has had the effect of increasing the number of labor recruiters entering Texas from California and other states, to recruit Texas migrants to replace the disappearing braceros.

The intensified recruiting of Texas labor, already apparent in 1964, will become even more pronounced during 1965, as the termination of the Bracero Act on the last day of 1964 cuts off completely the use of Mexican labor under that program. The entry of relatively small numbers of aliens under the immigration laws can be expected to be authorized from time to time by the U.S. Government, in order to assure the harvesting of crops for which domestic workers can not be secured in adequate numbers. Machine harvesting of many vegetable and fruit crops has not yet developed to the point where it is feasible or economic. Nor is it feasible to rely on the recruitment of large numbers of urban unemployed, as city workers will not, by and large, perform the arduous stoop labor involved in harvesting vegetables. Thus the prime source of workers to replace the braceros remains the large pool of Texas domestic migrants.

Texas, in 1964, received somewhat fewer than 10,000 braceros, as compared with over 100,000 in some previous years. But Texas growers, on the whole, have not been too severely affected, although individual producers in certain areas have been hard hit by shortages of labor at critical times. Similarly, the out-of-state recruitment has had some adverse effects in Texas, and growers in some areas have suffered critical labor shortages. Texas growers,

foreseeing the eventual unavailability of braceros, have for some years been making the change to mechanized harvesting, principally in cotton, but also in certain vegetables as it became feasible (see study "Mechanization and the Texas Migrant"). But the need for hand labor is still great, and many crops can be harvested only by hand. Thus if too many Texas workers leave to work in other states, Texas growers and the Texas agricultural economy will be seriously affected.

The principal need for braceros in Texas exists in certain jobs for which few of our migrants are qualified, or which are of such nature as not to attract domestic workers. Irrigation, for example, requires special training, the work is tiresome, and few of our workers will accept it. Similarly, cotton "stomping" in the trailers, after machine harvesting, is dirty, dusty work which our workers generally avoid, at least at most wage rates offered by the ginners. Some of the more arduous stoop labor work in vegetables is likewise, usually declined by domestic workers.

About 80 per cent of Texas migrants worked outside the State during 1964--a big increase over the 74 per cent who comprised the interstate stream in 1963. Over the last several years there had been observed a trend toward a greater out-of-state migration and a decrease in the number of migrants who remained entirely in Texas, forming the intrastate stream; in 1964 the trend became pronounced.

The total number of Texas migrants--including men, women, and children--is estimated to have been about 129,000 in 1964, counting both the interstate and the intrastate streams. This is about 1000 more than in 1963. But the interstate group is estimated to have comprised approximately 104,000 people out of the 129,000--80 per cent--while the intrastate group comprised only an estimated 25,000. This big jump in the number of migrants working outside the State is attributed to the increased efforts of out-of-state producers to secure Texas workers, as mentioned above, as well as to the continuing increase in the use of machinery in Texas crops. For detailed figures on the 1964 migration, see "Texas Migrant Workers-1964, Summary of Data".

Some early groups of our migrants left for Arizona and the West Coast during February, and some for Florida. In both cases some later returned to Texas claiming that working conditions or housing were not as promised, or that steady work was not available (Florida). The great bulk of our migrants, however, commenced its travel in April and May, as in previous years. Last year Texas

migrants worked in 36 states besides Texas; the three states employing the largest number of our migrants were as usual, Michigan (28,598), Ohio (21,921), and Wisconsin (17,982). For additional data see "States in Which Texas Migrants Worked-1964".

Many of the interstate migrants worked at least some weeks in Texas, generally in the cotton harvest in West Texas upon their return in late Fall. For most of them, return to home bases takes place from September through December; by Christmas the great majority are back in their homes. During 1964 more migrant families returned before or during the early part of September than has been the case in the past. This was to enable their school-age children to register in school at or near the beginning of the term, in keeping with the new school attendance law. Unfortunately, in various school districts of heavy migrant population, only about 20 per cent more than in previous years returned early.

Every year a small proportion of our migrants establish themselves permanently in other geographic areas, such as in West Texas or in northern states. Some thousands have settled in localities over a large area in and around Lubbock, for example. In many cases these have been able to secure permanent, year-around employment on farms, or in non-agricultural work, and have left the migrant stream. But home bases for the great majority continue to remain in South Texas, from San Antonio to the Border and to the Gulf. The heaviest concentration is in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; Hidalgo county has more migrants (25,000) than any other county. About 95 per cent of Texas migrants are of Mexican extraction; the remainder are, for the most part, Negroes residing in East Texas.

Interested persons from other states often comment on the apparent anomaly of growers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley complaining of labor shortages, while many thousands of Valley farm workers travel to the Great Lakes area to find work. The explanation lies in the time factor: the migrants need long-term employment, and by leaving for the North in Spring, are afforded several months of gainful work before the cotton in the Valley is ready to pick. Thus when cotton and a few other crops need harvesting in the Summer, workers are at times scarce. At this time some hundreds of Negroes from Mississippi, Louisiana, and East Texas even find it profitable to travel to the Valley for work.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

Over the last two years the Texas Employment Commission has undertaken extensive special recruiting programs in an effort to induce more potential farm workers to engage in harvest activities, and to secure workers for areas and crops in which labor shortages existed. The objective of this program is to assure sufficient labor both to growers in Texas as well as to other states in order to offset the effects of the lack of braceros. But the results were not entirely gratifying; although many workers were thus recruited, and in some cases critical labor situations were remedied or ameliorated, the migrants are strongly inclined to follow the patterns to which they have become habituated, and do not readily change to geographic areas and crops in which they have not previously worked.

The increased recruiting efforts on the part of out-of-state producers or labor contractors, brought out above, has on the whole been in keeping with Texas law on the subject. Recruitment may be done through the Texas Employment Commission, which, among its many duties acts to assure as much steady employment as possible to our workers throughout the year, and attempts to secure adequate numbers of workers to satisfy the labor needs of producers in other states. Recruiting is also engaged in under the licensing system of the Texas Bureau of Labor Statistics, by which labor contractors post a $5000 bond, and pay a state occupation tax of $600, plus a $150 fee for each county in which workers are to be recruited, plus certain local fees exacted by the counties. In 1964 some 29,000 workers were contracted for out-of-state work by the Commissioner of Labor.

But some illegal recruitment was engaged in during 1964, and evoked strong complaints from Texas growers, especially in the Valley. Often such illegal recruitment is difficult to discover, and more difficult to prove; the recruiter can transact his business with the crew leader on the other side of the Border, and in any case, the workers may not testify against the recruiter. Despite insufficient enforcement personnel, however, the Labor Commissioner has apprehended and fined a number of illegal operators during the past year.

MECHANIZATION:

As is brought out in the study "Mechanization and the Texas Migrant-1964", about 86 per cent of the Texas cotton crop was harvested by machine during 1964, the percentage varying according to region. Since there are now almost 40,000 stripping machines and about 8,000 picking machines in Texas, and most of the technical difficulties that hampered machine harvesting in the past have either been corrected or will be corrected by the time the cotton crop matures, it can be expected that over 90 per cent of the entire crop will be machine harvested in the future, given propitious weather conditions. If, however, heavy rains over large areas of the State make the use of heavy machines in the fields difficult and uneconomical, hand labor must be employed to a large extent, thus giving much-needed employment to the migrant workers.

Generally, with the improvement that has taken place in the harvesting machines, as well as in the new gin equipment that enables the ginner to produce a cleaner, better product with machine-harvested cotton, the cost per bale has been substantially lowered while the quality has improved. In most areas, if the prevailing wage rates for hand picking and hand pulling rise above a certain figure, it has today become cheaper to harvest entirely by machine, even taking into account the fact that machine harvested cotton is usually not of as high quality as hand harvested. As a result, great hardship has been caused the thousands of Texas migrants who have for years depended on cotton for their main income.

Mechanization has inevitably forced some changes in the migration pattern of our Texas migrants, who can no longer count on finding work in some areas in the State where previously they were accustomed to securing steady employment. As an example, the traditional movement up through Central and North Texas after completion of the Valley and Coastal Bend harvests, has had partly to be abandoned because of the heavy use of machinery in that region. The migrants now either return to their homes after the Coastal Bend harvest, or migrate directly to West Texas or to Northern states. The interstate migration, as has been brought out, has greatly increased in proportion over the intrastate stream.

During 1964 the use of the machine in the cotton harvest is estimated to have displaced over 240,000 workers in Texas. Similarly, machine harvesting of vegetables probably displaced about 6,000 workers that formerly worked in those crops. Despite the fact that

many localities in which vegetables are grown have available surpluses of hand labor, machine harvesting has made progress even in some vegetables; spinach, for example, is now about 90 per cent machine harvested, beans about 75 per cent, beets 50 per cent, and carrots 25 per cent.

PROBLEM AREAS IN TEXAS MIGRANT LABOR:

Texas has by far the largest number of migrant farm workers among the states, and the problems that afflict migrant workers elsewhere in the country, are accentuated in Texas. Although our migrants have for many decades performed a vital role in the agricultural economy of this and many other states, there remain major problem areas that require remedial action to correct the ills and disadvantages from which this large group of Texas citizens suffers. The problems that traditionally have beset this segment of our population have in recent years been accentuated and intensified by the realities of our present-day technological way of life.

The average yearly income from farm labor of the migrant workers has been reported as less than $1000 over recent years, and every year it is becoming increasingly difficult for most of them to find steady employment. As a consequence, they must travel farther for fewer days of work. Since these workers are not generally skilled in other work and can not readily be absorbed in industry or the services, they will become underemployed to an increasing degree from now on. This, in turn, poses a serious problem to the Texas communities where they have their homes, as these communities are entirely unprepared to sustain, by themselves, the large numbers of unemployed with which they will be faced.

The recent establishment by the Governor of an Office of Economic Opportunity to administer the State's anti-poverty program should constitute a long step toward correcting many of the basic handicaps from which the migrants have suffered. The President's Economic Opportunity Act, as well as several other legislative measures enacted or amended in recent years, contain provisions specifically designed to benefit migrant farm workers. At the present time, the Texas Office of Economic Opportunity, under the general guidance of an Inter-Agency Committee for Economic Opportunity also recently appointed by the Governor, is working out high-priority plans in the area of poverty elimination, with special emphasis on migrant labor. Major specific problem areas are as follows.

Education of the Children: The 58th Legislature passed two laws that will do much toward remedying one of the prime problems that existed in the past--the fact that migrant children were denied an adequate education by virtue of their migratory life, their language handicap, and the economic necessity of supplementing the family's income by work in the fields. The new law on child labor (H.B. 165) extends the protection of the Child Labor Law to children hired in agriculture (previously exempted), while the new Compulsory School Attendance Law (H.B. 331) requires all school-age children to attend school for the entire regular school term of the district of their residence. The old law required only 120 days' attendance, and even this minimum was not commonly enforced insofar as migrant children were concerned.

These laws became effective in August 1963, thus had no effect on the 1963 migration. During 1964, however, much publicity was given their provisions in areas of heavy migrant population by the local school authorities and interested State agencies, church organizations, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the G.I. Forum, and others. As a result, crew leaders and migrant parents have indicated that they are generally aware of the restrictions imposed by the laws. Informal spot checks with school authorities in a few districts where many migrant children live indicate that an average of about 20 per cent more migrant children returned to school in September 1964 than in previous years. (Similar checks in April 1965 indicate that about a similar percentage are staying until schools close).

Although voluntary compliance has thus far not solved the problem, considerable good has been accomplished, and the trend may grow. Very probably there has also been an increase in the number of children who make an effort to enroll in school in the states to which they travel, in compliance with the Texas law. Certain practical difficulties also affect the extent of voluntary compliance, such as the problem of the care of the children at home base while the parents are away, the availability of facilities and teachers in the districts into which migrants travel in large numbers, etc.

During the Fall of 1963 the Texas Education Agency, on the recommendations of some 12 superintendents of South Texas school districts, instituted intensive 6-months courses designed to meet the special needs of migrant children, in 5 Valley districts--McAllen, Edinburg, Weslaco, San Benito, and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo. The reaction of parents has, on the whole, been positive to a gratifying

degree, largely due to the excellent work of the local authorities in explaining the project, while registration has considerably exceeded expectations. Moreover, the pupils have reacted positively to the heavy work schedule, despite the long daily hours required of them, and the necessarily greatly curtailed holiday periods. The experiment has proved so promising that it has been extended to 5 more districts in South Texas. Other states have indicated interest in this unique Texas experiment, and are studying the possibility of adopting the curricula as well as the methods developed here.

Education of Adults: It has been estimated that the average adult migrant has the equivalent of about a fourth-grade education; many of them have had no formal schooling at all. Our Texas migrants, for the most part, also have a language handicap, and possess little, if any, skills other than in farm hand labor. Before any considerable number of them can be absorbed in industry or other non-farm employment, they must be afforded some general education in order that they will be able to absorb vocational training in appropriate skills. Although the problem is complex, and no simple solution is possible, a comprehensive program carried out with funds now becoming available could, in time, reduce substantially the number of these illiterates, and enable them to absorb the training necessary to become employable in full-time farm work, or in non-agricultural vocations.

Employment Commission records indicate that in agriculture alone there are some thousands of unfilled full-time jobs requiring skills not now possessed by the average migrant. Small-scale programs of training in farm machinery operation that have been conducted in some cities have proved to be very successful, and high rates of employment are reported among those who have taken the courses.

Day-Care Centers: As a rule when parents of migrant children are working in the fields, their small children and infants are either carried into the fields with them, or are left in camp under the questionable care of older children. Camp, in many cases, is simply the truck or family car parked at the side of the field. Day-Care centers exist at relatively few camps or areas where migrants work; they are usually organized by a few local church women and have little in the way of facilities, and less in the way of financial support.

Because of this situation and the general lack of such health factors as sanitation, proper diet, clean water, etc., the infant mortality rate from dysentery and diarrhea is very high among migrants. Nor do the children generally receive the kind of care and training that could prepare them for school later. At all conferences on the problems of migrant labor, the great need for Day-Care centers is one of the needs most frequently expressed by authorities on the subject.

Housing at Labor Camps: There is no legal authority under which the State Department of Health can require certain standards of health and sanitation at farm labor camps, and the owners of such camps determine what facilities and precautions to maintain on their property. The result is that the adequacy of Texas labor housing varies greatly, ranging from excellent in some instances, to deplorable in others. In West Texas many camps are quite adequate, often having cement block houses, screens over doors and windows, approved water supply, metal chemical privies or indoor bathrooms, electricity and cooking heat, etc. But some of the worst housing encountered in various parts of the State, does not even have very minimum facilities and sanitation, with the result that the health of the workers and their families as well as that of the community itself is endangered.

The migrants consider proper housing one of the most important factors in deciding where to accept employment; they often report that housing in some areas in Texas is the worst they encounter in their migration.

The State Health Department has drawn up a guide for employers of migrants--"Suggested Health Standards for Migratory Labor Camps" --which it makes available to owners of migrant housing during their regular visits. But compliance with the suggested standards is voluntary, and the owner may or may not feel like following the suggestions. Since migrants sometimes stay only a few days or weeks in a particular camp, the owner may not feel that any considerable expense in repairing his facilities is warranted; but some minimal standards should be required if outbreaks of communicable diseases are to be avoided.

Legislation to give the Department of Health authority to prescribe minimum standards for migrant housing was introduced in the 56th, 57th, and 58th Legislatures, but to date such legislation

has not been enacted. Federal financial assistance for the construction of proper housing has been made available, but has not generally been applied for. Hence this remains an area in which remedial action by the State would have a real and positive effect on the health of the farm labor force.

Rest Camps: Migrants frequently report that while travelling they experience much difficulty in finding rest camps where they can stop, either for a few hours or overnight. Some rest camps are maintained in Texas--the Texas Employment Commission lists 26--but in many large areas there are none. The camps are generally maintained by interested local groups or individuals, so there is considerable variation in the facilities offered. For the most part, however, the better camps consist of a parking area for vehicles, some shower baths, several water hydrants, rest rooms or privies, electric lights, laundry facilities, and cooking facilities-usually masonry barbecue pits. Some of the camps do not have all these facilities.

Migrants are not generally welcome to stop for any length of time at most filling stations or roadside travel centers, and along some routes frequently travelled by them the rest camps are at great distances from each other, or do not exist. Thus additional rest camps at convenient intervals, along usually travelled routes, all equipped with proper minimum facilities, would be of real benefit to the families that follow the crops.

TEXAS MIGRANT WORKERS-1964

SUMMARY OF DATA

GENERAL:

This short capitulation of the major statistics involved in the 1964 migration of Texas migrant farm workers is not meant to present a rounded-out picture of the characteristics and nature of the migration, nor of the many problems inherent in the life of the migrants. Rather, it should be considered as supplementing other studies, such as "Texas Migrant Labor During 1964, An Overview", by presenting numerical data of interest to persons involved in planning programs designed to benefit this large segment of Texas labor, and to other individuals desiring information on the magnitude of this annual movement of Texas families.

For the past several years there has been observed an annual increase in the number of migrants travelling outside of the State in the "interstate" stream, and a decrease in the number of migrants who remained entirely in Texas, forming the "intrastate" stream. During 1964 this trend became pronounced. Although the estimated total of 129,000 men, women, and children who migrated was only about a thousand more than in 1963, an estimated 104,000 spent some time outside the State in search of work, while only about 25,000 are estimated to have remained entirely in Texas. In the previous year's migration the interstate group numbered about 95,000, and the intrastate group about 36,800.

As in 1962 and 1963, some early groups migrated to Arizona and Florida during February, but the great bulk of migrants commenced its travel out-of-state in April and May; during 1964 Texas migrants worked in 36 states. Most of the interstate workers also worked at least some days or weeks in Texas, generally in West Texas on their return. Arrival at home bases in Texas took place from September through December; a larger proportion than in previous years returned during September in order that their children could register in school during that month, as called for under the new school attendance law.

Home bases for the great majority of Texas migrants are located in South Texas from San Antonio to the Border and to the Gulf, with a heavy concentration in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. About 95 per cent are of Mexican extraction; the remainder are mostly Negroes in East Texas.

According to the records of the Texas Employment Commission, the out of state migration consisted of 6,556 working groups, including crew leaders and family heads. The total number of men, women, and children represented was 96,153, of whom 35,924 were men 16 years of age and over, 26,035 were women 16 and over, and 34,194 were youths under 16. The total number of families recorded in the interstate stream was 13,569; there were also 7,568 unattached men, and 1,223 unattached women. It is to be noted that these figures represent the migrants actually recorded by the T.E.C.; they also include most of the 29,000 individuals recruited by out-of-state recruiters licensed by the Texas Bureau of Labor Statistics. Based on these figures, plus an approximation of the number of people who left the State without contacting either department (the so-called "free-wheelers"), the Employment Commission estimates the total interstate migration to have comprised 104,187 people.

As to the intrastate migration--those who worked entirely in Texas--there are no very reliable figures on the numbers involved. However, a reasonably sound estimate would probably place them at about 25,000. Thus the total number of Texas migrants, interstate plus intrastate, is estimated at about 129,000.

BREAKDOWN:

There are no figures available giving the breakdown by age, sex, etc. for the entire Texas migrant stream, interstate plus intrastate. But by using the proportions of the breakdown given above for the large interstate stream, the following approximate figures, suitable for practical planning purposes, can be arrived at:

Men 16 years of age and over	-------	48,000
Women 16 and over	----------	35,000
Youths under 16	----------	46,000
		129,000

Families (total in crews & as separate units)	---------	18,300
Unattached men	----------	10,600
Unattached women	----------	1,640
Work Groups (crew leaders & family heads)	--------	8,457
Size of Families (average number of members)	---	6.4*

* Represents migrating members only; many families leave their school-age children at home base in the care of relatives or close friends. In 1963 this figure was 6.2.

SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN:

In 1964, assuming that the proportion of school-age children among the "youths under 16" was the same as in previous years, about 25,000 school children migrated during school months. This figure represents only those who travelled on extended migration; the total number that missed substantial periods of school because of work in the fields was considerably higher. Many thousands work with their families in fields located within commuting distance of their homes and are therefore not classified as "migrants", nor are they reflected in migrant statistics. Including these children, the figure might reach 40,000 or more.

The remaining 21,000 "youths under 16" were infants and children under school age. As with the school-age children, the over-all total is considerably higher, as a large number of small children accompanied their parents to work within commuting distance of their homes and are thus not reflected in "migrant" statistics.

TRENDS IN TOTAL MIGRATION

1963-1964

Although the total number of people in the 1964 migration (129,000) was only about a thousand more than in 1963, the increase in the out-of-state migration as compared with the intrastate stream was pronounced. In 1964 some 104,000 men, women, and children formed the interstate stream --about 9,000 more than in 1963. The intrastate group, by contrast, dropped from 36,800 to an estimated 25,000 people. A moderate trend in that direction had been noted over the last several years, attributed to the increasing difficulty of finding steady employment in Texas due to the rapid increase in mechanized harvesting of cotton and some vegetables, and the somewhat higher wage scales in most other states. The principal cause for the big jump in 1964 is believed to be the intensified recruiting by out-of-state recruiters as a result of the difficulty of securing Mexican "braceros" for crops in other states that have previously depended heavily on on foreign labor. The abrogation of the Bracero Act on December 31, 1964, will in all probability accentuate this trend to a much greater extent during 1965, which will be a year of change and difficulty in the farm labor field.

A significant trend continues to be observed in the increase in the number of children -- school-age as well as younger -- that migrate with their families. Among the regular migrants, youths under 16 years of age increased in 1964 to about 46,000, of which about 25,000 were of school age. This trend, which appears to fly in the face of the new child labor and school attendance laws, may actually be due in part, at least, to the increasing number of children born in Latin American families, and to the fact that in ten school districts of heavy migrant population, the special 6-months school terms for migrant children allow many of them to accompany their parents on migration, since these courses start later and end earlier than regular courses. The figure of 25,000 represents only those on extended migration; many thousands more work with their families near their homes and are not accounted for in migrant statistics.

In keeping with this trend, the average size of families while migrating increased from 6.2 members in 1963 to 6.4 members in 1964. Other categories among the migrants exhibited no noteworthy trends.

Transportation: As during previous years, there was noted an increase in the use of private cars rather than trucks. The proportion of cars among total number of vehicles has risen from 58.4% in 1956 to 72.5% in 1964. This trend reflects the desire of families to travel as units, and the restrictive effect of Interstate Commerce Commission regulations governing the transportation of migrants by truck.

TABULATION:

Total Individuals	1964	129,000	
	1963	128,000	
		1,000	
Interstate	1964	104,000	
	1963	95,000	
		9,000	9.5% Increase
Intrastate	1963	36,800	
	1964	25,000	
		11,800	32% Decrease
Families	1963	18,700	
	1964	18,300	
		400	
Men 16 and Over	1963	48,600	
	1964	48,000	
		600	
Women 16 and Over	1964	35,000	
	1963	34,800	
		200	
Youths Under 16	1964	46,000	
	1963	44,600	
		1,400	3.1% Increase
School-Age Youths	1964	25,000	
	1963	24,350	
		650	2.6% Increase
Unattached Men	1964	10,600	
	1963	10,000	
		600	
Unattached Women	1963	2,000	
	1964	1,640	
		360	
Size of Families	1964	6.4 Members	
	1963	6.2 Members	

TEXAS COUNCIL ON MIGRANT LABOR
April 1965

MECHANIZATION AND THE TEXAS MIGRANT

1964

Machine harvesting of many crops in Texas that formerly depended on hand labor continued to increase during 1964 as over the last previous seasons. The greatest single crop in Texas is, of course, cotton, which traditionally has given work to over 100,000 of our domestic migrant farm workers, as well as many thousands of alien workers from Mexico. Not only were many more workers employed annually in cotton than in the other crops, the season was longer: it stretched from the start of cotton picking in South Texas in late June to the end of the pulling season in West Texas in late December and January.

The increase in the use of cotton harvesting machinery all over Texas has been so rapid over the last few years that it has greatly reduced the employment opportunities of the migrants who work "in cotton." A powerful spur to the use of machinery has been the realization on the part of Texas growers that the Mexican "Braceros" would not always be available to form the shock troops in the harvest. Thus their gradual annual reduction, and the final termination of the Bracero Act on December 31, 1964, found Texas growers relatively well prepared to carry on without them. There are, however, certain activities in which the non-availability of Braceros is keenly felt. These are the jobs which our domestic migrants are not generally inclined to accept, such as, principally, irrigation work, cotton "stomping" in the trailers after machine harvesting, and certain "stoop labor" jobs in vegetables.

A few figures will serve to illustrate the rapid increase in cotton mechanization. During the middle 1950's about 25 per cent of Texas cotton was machine harvested, and this mostly in West Texas where stripping by machine was feasible, given the storm-proof type of plant grown there. By 1962 over 70 per cent of all Texas cotton was machine harvested, and by 1964 about 86 per cent of the harvest was mechanized. From now on, given propitious weather for machine operation, the harvesting of cotton by machine in Texas will probably be above 90 per cent of the total number of bales produced. But even when the weather is right for machine harvesting, many growers prefer to give their crop an initial going over by hand labor in order to catch the first picking. The attached sheet tabulates the machine harvesting in the various major cotton-growing regions of Texas for the last three years.

Most mechanical harvesting is done by stripping machines, of which there are now almost 40,000 in the State. Stripping originally was confined largely to West Texas, where as mentioned above, the variety of cotton planted lent itself to this kind of operation. Over the last few years, however, many growers in Central and North Texas have gone in for stripping, preferring this simpler, less expensive operation to the use of the more complicated and expensive picking machine. There are, nevertheless, almost 8000 picking machines in use in Texas, most of them located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and in the Upper and Lower Coastal Bend. Whether cotton is machine stripped or machine picked, the cost per bale is substantially lower than the cost by hand labor.

In past years the quality of machine harvested cotton, and thus its price, was somewhat lower than that of hand-picked cotton; but improvements in gin machinery and the use of special cleaners has greatly reduced the disparity. A more recent innovation is the mechanical basket that stacks the cotton in the trailer in such a way to eliminate the need for cotton "stompers". Thus the machine is rapidly approaching the almost total displacement of the migrant in cotton harvesting. In 1964, of the total Texas production of 4,080,000 bales, about 3,509,000 were machine harvested; this represents about 3,930,000 man-weeks of hand labor. Estimating the entire crop season at about 16 weeks (if it ran continuously) the machine displaced in the neighborhood of 240,000 workers last year.

For many decades the bulk of our migrants worked most of the cotton season in the successive areas of the ripening crop--beginning in the Valley, then sweeping through the Lower Coastal Bend, then the Upper Coast, up through Central Texas to North Texas, and finally winding up the year in the vast plains of West Texas. Over the last few years the increasing use of machinery has caused more of the migrants to travel out of the State each year, until now the interstate group is much larger than the group working entirely within the State.

Vegetables: Insofar as the mechanical harvesting of vegetables is concerned, there has also been noteworthy progress in Texas. On the whole and considering all the various vegetable crops, the machine has taken over more slowly than in cotton, principally because of the existence of large surpluses of hand labor in the areas of greatest vegetable production, such as the Lower Rio Grande Valley. This, of course, tends to slow down the acquisition of expensive machinery. Technical factors also have held back mechanization in vegetables; a good example is in Texas' huge tomato crop. Most varieties of tomato are too soft for machine picking, and do not ripen at one time. New varieties are being developed that will eliminate the drawback; soon this crop will also be largely machine harvested.

Any considerable increase in the cost of hand labor would probably result in a more rapid increase in mechanized harvesting of vegetables, as has occurred in cotton. As of the present time, it has been estimated that machine harvesting of vegetables displaces some 6,000 workers annually, although reliable figures are not available. The following list indicates the extent of machine harvesting of some of the principal crops in 1964:

Spinach	90 per cent
Beans	75 per cent
Beets	50 per cent
Carrots	25 per cent

Since the use of machinery is also increasing rapidly in other crops in the states to which our farm workers migrate, for example in sugar beets, potatoes, snap beans, etc., it is becoming increasingly difficult for our Texas migrants to find steady employment during the crops season, and they must travel farther for fewer days of work. It seems clear that since these workers are not generally skilled in other work and can not, as a rule, secure employment in industry or the services, they will become unemployed in increasing numbers from now on. This poses a serious problem to the communities in South Texas where they have their homes, as these communities are entirely unprepared to sustain the large concentration of underemployed and unemployed with which they will be faced. Thus the problem becomes a matter of concern to the State, requiring study and remedial action that only the State is equipped to provide.

TEXAS COUNCIL ON MIGRANT LABOR
April 1965

MECHANIZATION IN TEXAS COTTON HARVEST

1964

REGION	1962 PERCENT	1963 PERCENT	1964 PERCENT
Northern Panhandle	85	93	95
High Plains	70	83	90
El Paso-Pecos	99	79	82
Winter Garden-San Antonio	78	85	85
Central Texas	82	92	90
Cross Timbers-East Texas	70	76	85
Edwards Plateau	60	82	85
Brazos River Valley	69	61	85
Upper & Lower Coastal Bend	65	73	70
Lower Rio Grande Valley	90	90	95
	70	81	86

Notes:

a. Of the 4,080,000 bales harvested, about 66% were machine stripped, 20% were machine picked, and 14% hand pulled or picked.

b. Data on the number of bales produced in each region were not available for 1964, hence these figures are not given above, as they were for 1963.

TEXAS COUNCIL ON MIGRANT LABOR
April 1965

STATES IN WHICH TEXAS MIGRANTS WORKED

1964

Figures represent total number of people--men, women, and children--on whom records were kept in the Texas Employment Commission or the Bureau of Labor Statistics. To these figures on "known" migrants may be added about 8 per cent to cover "free wheelers" who migrated without contacting either department.

Alabama	2,426	Montana	5,265
Arizona	633	Nebraska	3,345
Arkansas	1,170	Nevada	49
California	2,806	New Mexico	188
Colorado	5,674	New York	9
Delaware	51	North Dakota	2,489
Florida	1,384	Ohio	21,921
Idaho	15,709	Oklahoma	2,946
Illinois	14,841	Oregon	6,343
Indiana	13,354	Rhode Island	75
Iowa	2,201	South Carolina	203
Kansas	458	South Dakota	1,310
Kentucky	259	Tennessee	782
Louisiana	199	Utah	2,294
Michigan	28,598	Virginia	364
Minnesota	10,427	Washington	4,338
Mississippi	64	Wisconsin	17,982
Missouri	797	Wyoming	3,974

Total number of states: 36

The seven leading states in the use of Texas migrants were as follows:

Michigan	28,598
Ohio	21,921
Wisconsin	17,982
Idaho	15,709
Illinois	14,841
Indiana	13,354
Minnesota	10,427

TEXAS COUNCIL ON MIGRANT LABOR
APRIL 1965

PRINCIPAL COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE OF MIGRANTS

Workers Only - Estimated - 200 or more:

Outside Rio Grande Valley--

Bexar	8,000	
Nueces	5,000	
Webb	5,000	
Maverick	4,400	
Zavala	4,000	
San Patricio	2,000	
Travis	1,200	
Dimmit	1,000	
Uvalde	1,000	
Valverde	1,000	
McLennan	800	
Jim Wells	700	
El Paso	600	
Kleberg	600	
Brooks	500	
Frio	500	
LaSalle	500	
Medina	500	
Williamson	500	
Atascosa	400	
Caldwell	400	
Hale	400	
Harris	400	
Hays	400	
Karnes	400	
Lubbock	400	
Wilson	400	
Zapata	400	
Bell	300	
Bowie	300	
Duval	300	
Bee	200	
Dallas	200	
Guadalupe	200	
Hockley	200	
Tarrant	200	
Victoria	200	
		43,500

Total Outside Rio Grande Valley:		43,500
Lower Rio Grande Valley--		
Hidalgo - - - - - - - -	25,000	
Cameron - - - - - - - -	10,000	
Starr - - - - - - - -	2,200	
Willacy - - - - - - - -	2,000	
		39,200
In addition, approximately 40 counties have fewer than 200 resident migrant workers; these total about 3,500.		3,500
TOTAL		86,200

Note:

a. Numbers comprise workers recorded by Texas Employment Commission or recruited under Bureau of Labor Statistics regulations, plus estimated "free wheelers" in counties of heavy concentration.

b. Figures revised as of April 1965.

TEXAS COUNCIL ON MIGRANT LABOR
April 1965

NUMBER OF MIGRANT WORKERS ROUTED INTO LOCAL AREAS IN PEAK MONTH

1964

Note:

This list gives only the number of workers routed into local T.E.C. areas by the Texas Employment Commission. When migrating within Texas a large proportion of migrants travel on their own without direction by T.E.C.; thus these figures bear no relationship to the number who actually worked in these counties, and should be used with discretion. Neither do the figures include non-working members of crews, nor local "day-haul" workers.

Although figures generally cover T.E.C. areas, in some cases county figures are given, or may be estimated.

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
LLANO-COASTAL AREA:			
Austin	Travis Bastrop Caldwell Hays Blanco Llano Burnet Fayette Lee	August	415
Bay City	Matagorda Wharton Austin Colorado	August	1150
Bryan	Brazos Madison Grimes Burleson Robertson Washington	August	1075

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
LLANO-COASTAL AREA (Contd.)			
Taylor	Williamson Milam	August	900
Victoria	Victoria Jackson Calhoun DeWitt Gonzales Lavaca	August	2520
RIO GRANDE PLAINS:			
Crystal City	Zavala Uvalde Dimmitt Real	April	100
Eagle Pass	Maverick Kinney Edwards Val Verde		0
Laredo	Webb Lasalle Jim Hogg Zapata		0
San Antonio	Bexar Comal Guadalupe Wilson Atascosa Frio Medina Bandera Kerr Gillispie Kendall		0

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
COASTAL BEND:			
Beeville	Bee Goliad McMullen Live Oak Karnes	August	150
Corpus Christi	Nueces Refugio Aransas Kleberg Brooks Duval Jim Wells San Patricio	July	2750
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY:			
Brownsville	Cameron (Part)	August	200
Harlingen	Hidalgo (Part)	July	150
Edinburg	Hidalgo (Part)	July	250
McAllen	Hidalgo (Part) Starr	April	280
Weslaco	Hidalgo (Part)		0
Raymondville	Willacy Kenedy	July	400
TRANS-PECOS:			
El Paso	El Paso Hudspeth Culberson		0
Pecos	Reeves Loving Pecos Terrell Brewster Presidio Jeff Davis		0

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
EDWARDS PLATEAU:			
Big Spring	Howard Sterling	September	50
Midland	Midland Glasscock Martin		0
Odessa	Ector Andrews Upton Crane Winkler Ward		0
San Angelo	Tom Green Coke Runnels Concho Menard Kimble Sutton Schleicher Crockett Reagan Irion		0
Sweetwater	Nolan Fisher Mitchell Scurry	October	2600
NORTHERN PANHANDLE:			
Amarillo	Potter Carson Armstrong Randall Oldham	July	200
Borger	Hutchinson Ochiltree Hartley Moore Dallam Sherman Hansford	June	1785

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
NORTHERN PANHANDLE (contd.)			
Pampa	Gray Roberts Lipscomb Hemphill Wheeler	July	350
HIGH ROLLING PLAINS:			
Childress	Childress Hall Donley Collingsworth Cottle King Motley	November	1850
Littlefield	Lamb Castro Bailey Parmer Deaf Smith	July	7610
Lubbock	Lubbock Hockley Crosby Cochran Garza Dickens Kent	November	8045
Lamesa	Dawson Borden Gaines Yoakum Terry Lynn	July	2400
Plainview	Hale Swisher Briscoe Floyd	July	5250

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
CROSS TIMBERS:			
Abilene	Taylor Jones Shackleford Callahan	September	100
Denison	Grayson (Part)		0
Sherman	Grayson (Part) Cooke	August	280
Fort Worth	Tarrant Parker Wise Johnson	June	150
Mineral Wells	Palo Pinto Eastland Stephens Young		0
Vernon	Wilbarger Baylor Throckmorton Haskell Stonewall Knox Foard Hardeman	June	1000
Wichita Falls	Wichita Montague Clay Jack Archer	June	100
BLACKLANDS:			
Dallas	Dallas		0
Denton	Denton	November	60
McKinney	Collin	May	600
Waxahachie	Ellis	September	210

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
CENTRAL TEXAS:			
Brownwood	Brown Comanche San Saba Somervell Mills Hood Erath Coleman Mason McCulloch		0
Corsicana	Navarro		0
Hillsboro	Hill Bosque	June	530
Temple	Bell	June	585
Killeen	Lampasas		0
Mexia	Limestone Freestone Leon		0
Waco	McLennan Coryell Hamilton Falls	June	100
EAST TEXAS:			
Bonham	Fannin	July	20
Greenville	Hunt Rains Rockwall Kaufman		0
Longview	Gregg Upshur Rusk		0
Marshall	Harrison Panola Marion		0

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
EAST TEXAS (contd.)			
Mt. Pleasant	Titus Morrison Camp Franklin Hopkins		0
Paris	Lamar Red River Delta		0
Texarkana	Bowie Cass		0
Tyler	Smith Wood Henderson Cherokee Anderson Van Zandt		0
PINE BELT:			
Beaumont	Jefferson Hardin Chambers Liberty Jasper Sabine Newton Tyler San Augustine San Jacinto		0
Lufkin	Angelina Polk Trinity Houston		0
Nacogdoches	Nacogdoches Shelby		0
Orange	Orange		0

LOCAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	PEAK MONTH	NUMBER
UPPER COASTAL:			
Angleton	Brazoria	August	175
Houston	Harris Fort Bend Montgomery Walker Waller	August	410
Texas City	Galveston		0

MIGRANT LABOR LEGISLATION

INTRODUCED IN THE 58th AND 59th LEGISLATURES

58th Legislature:

Five bills were introduced on Migrant Labor that were similar to those introduced in the 57th Legislature and 56th Legislature. These bills concerned Child Labor (introduced in both House and Senate), Compulsory School Attendance (introduced in House and Senate), Transportation Safety (introduced in House only), Crew Leader Licensing (introduced in Senate only), and Labor Camp Housing (introduced in Senate only).

In addition, 6 new bills, concerning Education for Adult Migrants and Illiterates and prepared by the Texas Education Agency, were introduced in identical versions in both House and Senate. No similar bills had been introduced in previous Legislatures.

The majority of migrant bills were not reported out of committee or voted on in either the House or Senate. However, as a result of the studies and hearings which the House Interim Committee on Migrant Labor (Kennard Committee) had conducted during the interim between the 57th and 58th Legislatures, the 58th Legislature was provided with a much clearer understanding of the problems and needs of our Texas migrants. As a consequence, two of the bills which have been regarded as among the most urgently needed pieces of corrective legislation--the Child Labor and Compulsory School Attendance Bills--were enacted into law. Similarly, funds were appropriated in the Appropriations Bill to finance a study project for the education of adult migrants (and other illiterates) in order to facilitate their entry into other vocations. However, local matching funds for this project did not materialize, and the study was dropped.

The details of the actions taken on the various migrant labor bills in the House and in the Senate follow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.B. 165--Child Labor Law--de la Garza (same as S.B. 408). Amends the Child Labor laws to provide a minimum of fourteen (14) years of age in regard to work permits issued by a county judge to a child whose earnings are necessary to a family in needy circumstances, and provides for the procedure in establishing the need. Provides for repeal of language that expressly excludes children hired in agricultural work from the provisions of the child labor laws, but retains other previous exceptions, and provides for an exception to cover the employment at farm work of a farmer's children.

Referred to Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. Was passed by Senate on April 9, 1963; signed by the Governor on May 30, 1963; became effective August 23, 1963.

H.B. 331--School Attendance Law--Markgraf. (Same as S.B. 409). Provides that every child who is seven (7) years and not more than sixteen (16) years of age to attend public school for the entire regular school term in the district of its residence or in some other district to which it may be transferred as provided by law. Act exempts high school graduates, and does not affect the exceptions for students at private schools, nor alter previous provisions for enforcement.

Referred to Education Committee. Was passed by Senate on May 21, 1963, was signed by the Governor on June 5, 1963, and became effective on August 23, 1963.

H.B. 401--Transportation Safety--Townsend. Provides for safety standards, devices, and procedures for the transportation of migrant farm workers and their families by truck within the State. Generally similar to the Interstate Commerce Commission regulations now governing the interstate transportation of migrants. Provides for enforcement and establishes penalties for violations.

Referred to Motor Traffic Committee. No open hearings held. Was not reported out of committee.

H.B. 791--Education for Adult Illiterates--Ligarde.
(Same as S.B. 405)

H.B. 792--Education for Adult Illiterates--Ligarde.
(Same as S.B. 403)

H.B. 793--Education for Adult Migrant Agricultural Workers--Ligarde.
(Same as S.B. 404)

H.B. 794--Education for Adult Migrant Agricultural Workers--Ligarde.
(Same as S.B. 406)

H.B. 795--Education of Adults--Ligarde.
(Same as S.B. 402)

H.B. 796--Education for Adult Migrant Agricultural Workers--Ligarde.
(Same as S.B. 407)

These 6 Bills were referred to the Appropriations Committee. Open hearing was held on April 29, 1963. No further action taken on the Bills, but the Committee recommended $30,000 for the biennium for a study project on the education of adult illiterates. Project to be conducted at Texas Southmost College, Brownsville.

SENATE

S.B. 408--Child Labor Law--Kennard. (Same as H.B. 165)

Referred to Jurisprudence Committee. No hearings held, but Senate passed H.B. 165 when same was referred to it.

S.B. 409--School Attendance Law--Kennard (Same as H.B. 331)

Referred to Jurisprudence Committee. No hearings held, but Senate passed H.B. 331 when same was referred to it.

S.B. 410--Crew Leader Licensing--Kennard. Provides for licensing and registration of crew leaders by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, so they may have legal responsibilities toward the workers recruited by them, the employers, and the public. Sets minimum standards governing their operation, lists prohibited acts, and provides for enforcement and sets penalties for violations.

Referred to Finance Committee. No hearings were held; bill not reported out of committee.

S.B. 411--Labor Camp Housing--Kennard. Authorizes the State Department of Health to adopt rules and regulations to govern housing facilities for migrant farm workers and protect the health, safety, and welfare of workers living therein; provides for issuance of permits for construction and operation of such facilities, sets forth fees, and provides for inspection, enforcement, and penalties for violations.

Referred to Jurisprudence Committee. No hearings were held; Bill was not reported out of committee.

S.B. 402--Education for Adults--Kennard (Same as H.B. 795)

S.B. 403--Education for Adults--Kennard (Same as H.B. 792)

S.B. 404--Education for Adult Migrant Agricultural Workers--Kennard. (Same as H.B. 793)

S.B. 405--Education for Adult Migrant Agricultural Workers--Kennard. (Same as H.B. 791)

S.B. 406--Education for Adult Migrant Agricultural Workers--Kennard. (Same as H.B. 794)

S.B. 407--Education for Adult Migrant Agricultural Workers--Kennard. (Same as H.B. 796)

These 6 Bills referred to Finance Committee. Open hearing was held on April 23, 1963. No further action was taken on the Bills, but Senate, in passing Appropriations Bill, appropriated $30,000 for the study project for the education of adults, referred to above. The study was never initiated.

59th Legislature:

Up to the time of this report (April 1965) only one piece of legislation having to do with migrant labor had been introduced in the 59th Legislature. This was Senate Bill 179 (House Bill 96), to consolidate the Texas Council on Migrant Labor with the Texas Good Neighbor Commission. The Senate Bill passed the Senate on February 15 and the House on April 7, and was signed by the Governor on April 22, 1965.

The merger which takes place on September 1, 1965, places the functions of the Migrant Labor Council under a "Coordinator of Migrant Affairs" of the Good Neighbor Commission, and transfers the funds appropriated for the Migrant Labor Council to the Good Neighbor Commission. The law thereby abolishes the "ex-officio" membership of the present Council, comprising the heads of seven State departments. The Migrant Council has long held the view that the "ex-officio" principle of Council membership was awkward, and should be replaced by a commission of citizens.

MIGRANT LABOR

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ANNUAL WORKER PLAN:

The plan under which representatives of the Texas Employment Commission recruit and schedule interstate migrant agricultural workers to a series of successive employments in agriculture throughout their migration, including their return to Texas.
(The purpose of the plan is to assure maximum employment throughout the year for the migrant workers).

BRACERO:

Alien Mexican field-hand employed on a contract basis in agricultural labor in the United States, under terms and guarantees agreed to between the United States and Mexico, and enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor under Public Law 78.
(Adult male laborers are transported into the U.S. to work in a specified crop area for a specific period of time. They are never accompanied by women or children. They are returned to Mexico upon completion of the contract. Although limited numbers of aliens of other nationalities are also imported annually, the term "bracero" refers only to the Mexican national. In some areas the braceros are colloquially called "nationals").

CREW:

A group of migrant farm workers travelling as a unit under the control and direction of one of their number (crewleader). A crew usually includes some relatives and friends of the crewleader, and in many cases comprises entire families -- men, women, and children.
(Texas crews may vary in size from a small family of a few members travelling in the family car, to several hundred travelling in trucks and cars. Most crews number from 20 to 30 persons.)

CREWLEADER (CREW CHIEF):

A person who solicits or recruits migrant farm workers, transports and personally accompanies such workers during their migration, and acts as their spokesman or agent in dealing or negotiating with employers concerning terms of employment, wages, and working conditions.
(Our Texas crewleaders perform a variety of other services for the members of their crews).

DAY HAUL:
The transportation of local seasonal agricultural workers on a day to day basis between their employment and their own permanent home or residence.

DAY HAUL RECRUITER:
Any person who solicits or recruits, and transports, local agricultural workers on a day-to-day basis between their employment and their permanent home or residence.

EMPLOYER:
As here used, the term "employer" means any person, firm, association, or cooperative group employing the services of migrant agricultural workers, including the first processing of agricultural products.

FREE-WHEELERS:
Migrants who do not contact an office of the Texas Employment Commission before migrating, but migrate entirely on their own responsibility.
(Many free-wheelers follow an itinerary on which they return to certain employers for whom they have worked in previous years, and with whom they maintain contact during the off season).

INTERSTATE MIGRATION:
That portion of the migration that moves from Texas to other states in search of employment.
(During the last few years Texas migrants migrated to about 36 other states. A large number of these also worked at least some weeks in Texas, usually in cotton in West Texas upon their return. The interstate migration comprised about 80 per cent of our total number of migrants in 1964.

INTRASTATE MIGRATION:
That portion of the migrants who remain entirely within Texas during their migration.
(This portion comprised about 20 per cent of the total number in 1964.)

LABOR AGENT (LABOR CONTRACTOR):

Under Texas law, a "labor agent" is a person who, for a fee or without a fee, procures employment for common or agricultural workers for employers, or supplies the services of common or agricultural workers to any person.

(In Texas, migrant crew leaders are not considered to be labor agents, in the legal sense intended, and hence are not subject to registration and licensing under our Texas Labor Law, nor to payment of the various taxes and fees required of the latter. The law primarily affects out-of-State contractors who recruit farm labor in Texas).

MIGRANT (Also MIGRANT LABORER: MIGRANT FARM WORKER: MIGRANT AGRICULTURAL WORKER: MIGRATORY WORKER: DOMESTIC MIGRANT):

A seasonal farm worker who is a U.S. citizen and who performs his labor at such distance from his permanent home that he cannot return to his home at night, but must be quartered in the area of his employment.

(The term "migrant" usually refers to the migrant agricultural, rather than industrial worker, and includes members of the worker's family who accompany him).

MIGRATION:

As used here, migration is the annual or seasonal travel of migrants as they follow the crops. Harvesting the crops forms the principal employment, but extensive employment is also found in cultivating activities in various crop areas throughout the Nation and the State.

WETBACK:

Mexican national who enters the United States illegally in search of agricultural work.

(At one time wetbacks entered the U.S. in such large numbers that they constituted a serious problem. Since establishment of the Bracero program, under which Mexicans can enter legally and perform farm work, the wetbacks have decreased in number until today the problem is no longer serious).

TEXAS COUNCIL ON MIGRANT LABOR
April 1965